

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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Contact: Cari Boyce/Fred Hartman  
Phone: (919) 733-5612

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**EASLEY ISSUES ORDER FOR EDUCATION FUNDING**

**Raleigh** – Gov. Mike Easley today issued an executive order directing the State Budget Office to release \$29 million to fund enrollment growth in North Carolina’s public schools. Easley’s action comes after the Legislature failed to include the necessary funding in the continuing resolution, which passed today, or to enact a revised budget for the current year. Easley asked both the House and Senate to include enrollment increases as education leaders are already scrambling for funds to meet education needs.

“Our public schools need these dollars now,” said Easley. “School has already started and enrollment is up. Schools have been patient long enough. Our children’s education cannot afford to wait on the budget process.”

The budget proposed by Easley in May recommended an additional \$29 million in funding for public schools to account for increased enrollment. Both the Senate and the House budget proposals contain this funding, but a final budget has not yet been passed.

“We have over 1.3 million children in our public schools this year, an increase of nearly 26,000 from last year,” said Easley. “Schools have to support these additional students whether or not we have a budget in place, and I am committed to making sure that they have the resources they need to provide a quality education for our children.

“We have a constitutional and a moral obligation to provide a sound, basic education for our children. I will not let the lack of a budget interfere with our duty.”

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